

DIGITAL LIBRARY CONNECTIONS

Linking Interim Assessment Blocks to Digital Library Resources



Created by expert educators in collaboration with Smarter Balanced, Digital Library Connections link student performance on the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs) to resources in the Digital Library. Educators can use these connections to find relevant and useful instructional supports that are aligned to students' needs.

How are the Digital Library Connections created?

To create the DL Connections, classroom educators work with Smarter Balanced facilitators to review Interim Assessment Blocks, determine the skills and knowledge aligned to each achievement level, and identify corresponding resources in the Digital Library. The process looks like this:

1. Educators work in subject- and grade-specific groups to review student data on the IAB to identify the questions students at each achievement level answer correctly.
2. After the review, educators produce descriptions of the skills and content that students at each level are likely to know and/or be able to do.
3. Next, educators search the Digital Library for resources that can serve as instructional springboards for students at each achievement category. The Digital Library resources include classroom activities, tasks, assignments, and lesson plans that are cognitively accessible for students at each given level and extend their understanding to the next level.
4. Based on their search, educators recommend a set of resources for each achievement category.

How can educators use the Digital Library Connections?

DL Connections are intended to assist educators in advancing student learning and growth. By considering interim assessment results along with other classroom assessment and professional judgment, educators can decide how to use Digital Library resources to support their instruction. DL Connections provide just a small sample of educator-recommended Digital Library resources that can supplement curriculum and other classroom activities—they are not meant to replace curriculum or define an instructional sequence. Many of the resources can be implemented “as-is”; however, others will likely need to be adapted to suit unique classrooms and individual students.

What are the Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs)?

IABs allow educators to check student progress throughout the year. When compared with the summative assessments and the Interim Comprehensive Assessments, IABs are smaller, more focused assessments designed to give educators useful, actionable information they can use to adjust instruction and better help students meet the challenges of college- and career-ready standards. Educators can use IABs to check student progress towards mastering specific concepts at strategic points during the school year more consistently with the sequence of their curricula.

What is the Digital Library?

The Digital Library is an online collection of instructional and professional learning resources contributed by educators for educators. These resources are aligned to Common Core State Standards and help educators implement the formative assessment process to improve teaching and learning. The resources can support instruction by: (1) Providing guidance on differentiated instruction for diverse learners, (2) Increasing educator understanding of assessment, (3) Engaging students in their own learning, (4) Designing professional development opportunities, and (5) Providing materials for Professional Learning Communities.